

# The Fire and Emergency Medical Services News



New Hampshire Fire Academy



**WINTER 2006**

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A Service of New Hampshire Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services

## ***“Training on the Leading Edge”***

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Dear New Hampshire Emergency medical Service and Fire Service Personnel:

I can't believe that 2006 is upon us...it seems the big Y2K issue was only a couple months ago! Well as I write this there have been 105 Fire Service Line of Duty deaths in the United States in 2005...a staggering number, but one that should be FAR LESS! We preach safety in all our training, we preach safety in all our activities, and we preach safety on the job...we need to do something to reduce, or better yet eliminate, these tragic occurrences.

As I receive information from the United States Fire Administration it still seems that a huge majority are either vehicle or stress (heart) related. It seems to me that we can manage these with the basic training and fitness programs that are readily available to all emergency response organizations. There are several departments that have acquired fitness equipment and program guidance to assure personnel are in top shape for emergency response. Please let's all do what we can to stop this crisis.

This issue I will focus on the free training that is offered to first responders by our division...basically anything that can relate to incident management and hazardous materials. We have grant funding to assist all our customers to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) trained level, and in many cases we can offer back-fill and overtime money for these courses! We have offered hazardous materials and the incident command system training free of charge for years. For information your department's training officer should contact your field captain (see the list in this issue), or for training at the fire academy please contact Captain Bob Pragoff at 271-2661. A department should not hire your own instructor, then seek reimbursement...this will NOT be approved.

Most of you are aware that your agency will not be eligible for federal grants in the years to follow if you have not adopted and trained in the NIMS process.

Well enough for now, please train and respond safely...at the end of the day assure everyone goes home!

Sincerely, Rick Mason

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1st Thurs. of each month (except July-August) .....	NH Fire Standards & Training Commission Meeting 10:00 a.m. ....	NHFA
2nd Thurs. of each month .....	Tests/Retests; sittings at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; preregistration required by 1st of month .....	NHFA
3rd Friday of each month .....	National Registry Exam for EMS at 9:00am .....	NHFA
Every month .....	Train-the-Trainers (watch for listings) .....	NHFA

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:** Watch for future listings

**FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTRUCTOR PROGRAMS:** Watch for future listings

**FIRE OFFICER PROGRAMS:** Watch for future listings

### **FIREFIGHTER PROGRAMS:**

04/03/06 - 06/16/06 .....	Recruit School 2006 .....	NHFA
04/10/06 - 04/21/06 .....	Certified Career Firefighter .....	NHFA

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAMS:** Watch for future listings

**INDUSTRIAL TRAINING:** Watch for future listings

### **NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY PROGRAMS:**

04/17/06 & 04/18/06 .....	Strategy & Tactics for Initial Company Operations .....	NHFA
05/22/06 & 05/23/06 .....	Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I .....	NHFA
06/05/06 & 06/06/06 .....	Preparation for Initial Company Operations .....	NHFA

**SPECIALTY PROGRAMS:** Watch for future listings

**TERRORISM PROGRAMS:** Watch for future listings

**TRAIN-THE-TRAINER PROGRAMS:** Watch for future listings

Please check our website monthly for upcoming programs at <http://www.nh.gov/safety/fst/uprograms.html>

## Classes in the Field

Remember if you wish to hold classes in the field, not at the Fire Academy you need to contact the Field Captain that serves your district.

**North Region:** Captain Harry McGovern  
Phone: 603-419-9444  
Email: McGoverH@safety.state.nh.us

**South Region:** Captain Meredith Lund  
Phone: 603-419-9500  
Email: LundM@safety.state.nh.us

### **The Regions cover the following areas:**

- North:** All of Grafton, Coos, Carroll, and Belknap County. Also the communities of Cornish, Plainfield, Grantham, Danbury, Hill, Andover, Franklin, Northfield, Strafford, Farmington, Milton, New Durham and Middleton.
- South:** All of Cheshire, Hillsborough, and Rockingham counties. Also the communities in Sullivan, Merrimack and Strafford Counties not listed above.

For a map of the Regions, please see our website at <http://www.nh.gov/safety/fst/forms.html>

## HazMat Teams Receive Training and Equipment

Good things come to those who wait. The New Hampshire HazMat teams have been waiting patiently for the radiological equipment bought by the Bureau of Emergency Management (BEM) through the grant program. The delay was due to establishing the training program on the DMC2000S dosimeter and the CDV-718A ratemeter. Both instruments are state of the art items but may be damaged quite easily if not trained how to use them.

Mr. George Muszynski of BEM has been working tirelessly to make these instruments available to the teams. Thursday, December 1, 2005 Tim Collins and Peter "The Hulk" Gordon of the Seacoast Technical Assistance Response Team (START) were the first to be trained and receive the equipment.

On Monday, December 5, 2005 members of the Central NH HazMat Team, Keene Fire/HazMat team, Manchester Fire/HazMat team and the North Country Emergency Response Team received their training and equipment at the Fire Academy.



*Peter Gordon of START sets the parameters of the DMC2000S with the team computer. Also included in the training are the computer software for the team's computers and the reader for the dosimeters issued to the teams. Each team is being issued fifteen dosimeters, the software to vary the settings of the dosimeter and the reader. Approximate value \$5,000.00*



*Tim Collins and Peter Gordon of START familiarize themselves with the CDV-718A. Here they are setting up the Beta/Gamma probe. The kit also includes an alpha probe, Gamma Micro R probe, Pancake probe and an X-Ray probe as well as the head phones and volume box and a check source. Approximate value \$11,000.00*

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## ANNUAL EMS AWARDS ARE PRESENTED

The 2005 Annual Emergency Medical Service awards were presented on October 12, 2005 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy in conjunction with the Fire Service Annual Committee of Merit Awards. This is the first year that these awards were presented together, the evening was impressive and emotion filled for all recipients and guests alike.

The "Bound Tree Corporation EMS Unit of the Year Award" was created to recognize a New Hampshire Licensed EMS Unit for exemplary service to their community. The Penacook Rescue Squad was presented this award for 50 years of service that was initiated through Civil Defense start-up funding. The Squad services two communities along with mutual aid responses to the Capitol Area Mutual Aide Com-

pact. Their membership gives countless hours of community service, time and energy and is recognized for their accomplishments.

Jeanne Erickson, RN, EMT-I, Speare Memorial Hospital EMS Coordinator and member of Warren Wentworth Ambulance received the "Dr. David J. Connor Memorial EMS Appreciation Award" ("The Connor Honor"). This Award was created to recognize a very special individual for their unremitting, heartfelt, dedication to the emergency medical services system in New Hampshire. Ms. Erickson's dedication to this System has found her active at the local and statewide level with involvement in the Trauma and EMS Information System (TEMSIS) Project, Computer Based Testing Initiative,

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Protocol Update Process, Trauma System Improvements and various, regular, advisory committee meetings. This is the first year that the "Connor Honor" has been awarded to a non-physician member of our EMS Community.

Pam Drewniak, EMT-I, EMS I/C, the New London Hospital EMS Coordinator and a member of the Newbury Fire Rescue Department, was presented the "Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Educator of the Year Award." This award has been created to recognize an EMS Educator who excels in his/her contributions and commitment to New Hampshire's EMS Education and Training. As a recognition of excellence and accomplishments by an individual that have assisted in improving the New Hampshire Trauma and EMS System, Ms. Drewniak meets this criteria through District and Regional Educational Projects and her dedication to the Annual EMS Conference at Mt. Sunapee Resort sponsored by New London Hospital and which in 2006 will be in it's sixth year of existence.

The "Pamela Mitchell/Richard Connolly Memorial Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Achievement Award" was presented to Mary "Liz" Connor, RNP, to recognize her 32 years of service to the New Hampshire EMS System. The Award has been created for an individual, or group, who has made an outstanding contribution to the EMS & Trauma System.

As an EMT, EMS Instructor, Registered Nurse, Nurse Practitioner, friend and mentor to hundreds of Providers, Ms. Connor has given countless hours to sustain, improve and enhance the System statewide. Her dedication to southern New Hampshire's EMS District Boards and the Regional Council, has built a foundation that will be strong well into the future.

Three Laconia emergency responders received the "Lawrence A. Volz Memorial Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Heroism Award" for their courageous response to a swimmer in trouble. Lt. Mike Shastany of Laconia FD, and Officers Steven A. Orton and Christopher R. A. Noyes of Laconia PD acted quickly this past July to the call for aid in an underwater night-search in attempts to save a drowning victim. These public servants located the swimmer and rushed him to shore where Laconia FD Paramedics initiate ALS and transported. Although the outcome was tragic, these responders used their skills and dedication in a truly heroic manner and in the spirit of this award, are recognized for acts of heroism while in the line of duty.

Each of these five awards is presented annually and the Bureau of EMS promotes nominations by peers and community members alike. Please check the Bureau of EMS web site for details and nomination forms for the 2006 awards.

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## Rescheduled Fall 2005 Instructor / Coordinator Enhancement Seminar

Since the July 2005 passage of House Bill 257 relative to emergency medical and trauma service protocols and quality assurance program, the NHBEMS staff has been busy planning for the implementation of the changes that it will bring. In anticipation of the changes that will affect NH EMS Educators, the November I/C Enhancement Seminars normally scheduled for November 4 & 5, 2005 were postponed pending the development and availability of the Transition Programs outlined in the Instructor letter dated August 2, 2005. Since July, Vicki Blanchard, ALS Coordinator, and other NHBEMS staff members have been working to create these transition programs, along with all teaching support materials, evaluation and reporting forms.

As all EMT provider levels will be impacted by the rule changes relative to the implementation of "statewide" protocols, the FST & EMS, Bureau of EMS will be doing rollouts to introduce the Transition Training Modules. At

these rollouts we will make available to NH EMS Instructors all materials necessary to ensure that you are familiar with, and understand how and when to bring these programs to your classrooms.

The rescheduled EMS I/C Enhancement Seminar agenda will be dedicated to the review of the new protocols and transition programs and to provide instructors with teaching materials that can be either added to the current USDOT teaching curricula, or be taught as free-standing programs. The target date for completion of preparation materials is January 1, 2006. The Bureau of EMS will be sending out updated information and schedule dates relative to the I/C Transition Rollout sessions by late December.

If you have questions or need additional info, please contact either Vicki Blanchard, ALS Coordinator at 1-888-827-5367 extension 115, or Liza Burrill, Education Coordinator at 752-7531.

## New Tools for Firefighter Rehab

**Clay Odell, EMTP, RN, FF II, Trauma System Coordinator**

Question: what is the best way to treat any injury? The answer is to prevent it from happening in the first place. This concept applies on the fireground.

Heat and stress related injuries account for a substantial amount of mortality and morbidity of firefighters. Yet is only recently that the concept of rehab has started to be adopted by the fire service.



Recently in western Vermont a stubborn structure fire on a particularly hot and humid day resulted in a number of firefighters requiring medical treatment for heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Heat exhaustion results in less firefighters available to conduct operations, and heat stroke is a life-threatening condition. Modern firefighting turnout gear does a good job of protecting against heat in a fire, but it also increases the rate at which the human body generates heat, and the gear does not allow the heat to dissipate.

A new piece of equipment that has gone on the market for the rehab area makes a lot of sense. The Kore Kooler(r) by Morning Pride is a chair that incorporates into the arms of the chair plastic bags that contain water. The firefighter immerses his or her forearms in the water, which has a significant cooling effect. According to the manufacturer this works much better than a mist tent, which is what some sources have recommended in the past. You can read about the chair and some of the research at [www.morningpride.com](http://www.morningpride.com).

The lowest price I found on the chair is \$92.00 plus shipping. The arm reservoir bags go for \$19.00 for a

pack of 50. There is an attachable umbrella for \$27.00, but why spend the money for an umbrella, and instead just put the thing under a dining fly?

Speaking of saving money...I was thinking about how a fire department could have a number of chairs that would do the job of the Kore Kooler(r), but at a lower cost. I went to the local "big box" store and bought a folding chair (\$5.00), and two Rubbermaid "Keepsake Photo and Media boxes" 18" x 9" x 6" (\$4.95 each). I wanted to experiment with the best way to hold the water containers at the right height, so I bought two milkcrates to stack on top of each other (\$2.00 each), and a folding table I bought at a drug store for \$5.00 (both methods work okay). The total cost was less than \$24.00 for one setup. You could do four chairs for the cost of one Kore Kooler(r) since the chairs could be put side-by-side and you could double up on the milkcrates or folding tables that you use to hold the water containers. By the way, when you use the chair you don't have to use chilled water, whatever comes out of the garden hose or water tank is fine.

Whether you go with the Kore Kooler(r) or the cheapo version, this equipment doesn't take up a lot of storage space and can have a big effect on the health of your firefighters. All fire departments should have access to adequate rehab equipment and the investment is worth it. To paraphrase a popular TV commercial, price of a rehab chair - \$24 to \$100. Health of a firefighter - priceless.



## TEMSIS Update & FAQ's

On December 19, 2005 the Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services (FST & EMS) completed the rollout of the Trauma and EMS Information System (TEMSIS) project in Region II. Region II was the last EMS Region to complete an introduction to TEMSIS. The set up and implementation of TEMSIS is funded by a grant from the New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency and the planning was funded by the HRSA Trauma-EMS grant program.

During the rollouts over 300 instructors were trained representing all five of the EMS Regions. These instructors are in the process of educating their EMS Units on entering an electronic Patient Care Record (PCR) into TEMSIS. To date, there have been over 15,000 PCR's entered into TEMSIS

with 40% percent of EMS Units and over 1,300 EMS Providers reporting. Here are some of the most frequently asked questions:

### 1. I have forgotten my password what do I do?

First, click on the words "Lost your password?" in the login section. If you have put your email address in your profile then it will send the password to that email. If you have not put your email in the profile, you will need to contact the Unit Leader for your Primary service or the Bureau at 603-271-2661 or Image Trend at 888-469-7789.

### 2. Where do I put the Blood Glucose testing results?

While the Blood Glucose procedure is in the procedure section, the results are in the Vital Signs section.

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### 3. How do I make a Signature/ Refusal Form?

In Knowledge Base go to the drop off/refusal form section and follow the instructions. There are also blank forms that can be edited in a word processing program such as Microsoft Word.

### 4. How do I log in the first time?

Log in with your provider number, no letters, as your username and your password from your organization's TEMSIS trainer.

### 5. If I fill out a NFIRS EMS module (NFIRS-6) for an EMS run, do I still have to fill out a TEMSIS record?

Yes, the TEMSIS system is a patient care record for EMS reporting. NFIRS is a fire department incident reporting

system. Although there are some similar fields on both systems, the TEMSIS patient care reporting system which collects a lot more information.

### 6. If I fill out a TEMSIS electronic PCR, do I still have to fill out an NFIRS EMS module (NFIRS 6)?

Yes, although the Division of Fire Safety and the Division of EMS are currently working on elimination of data entry duplication, the NFIRS EMS module is still needed. At some point, it is hoped that the data fields on the TEMSIS system that are translatable to the NFIRS system will automatically migrate to the NFIRS system.

**As always, please do not hesitate to call with any questions!**

## Fire Sprinkler Awareness Program and Demonstration Presented By Hudson Fire Department

On November 10th Inspector Joe Triolo and members of the Hudson Fire Department presented a fire sprinkler awareness program to approximately 15 - 20 attendees. The program was presented to educate builders and politicians on the life safety benefits of home fire sprinkler systems and topics covered included myths vs. facts, costs, possible incentives, how sprinklers operate and typical installations. Other topics covered included building construction, fire facts, home fire statistics, how different building materials react under fire conditions and hazards to fire fighters found in building construction.

Participants were shown a fire timeline video, a fire sprinkler demonstration video, a PowerPoint presentation and a live fire sprinkler activation using a fire sprinkler demonstration unit borrowed from Nashua Fire Department. Homeowners can reduce their and their family's risk of dying in a home fire by approximately 82% when they have working smoke detectors and a working and maintained fire sprinkler system. "By installing and maintaining a working home fire sprinkler system, when dealing with fire it is better than having a firefighter on duty 24 hours a day because sprinklers control and often extinguish the fire within the first three minutes of the fire" advises inspector Triolo.

For more information or if any one has any questions, please contact Inspector Triolo at 886-6021.

## HAZARD HOUSE AND SAFETY TRAILER VISIT HO SMITH AND LIBRARY STREET SCHOOLS

On October 25 and 28, Inspector Triolo of the Hudson Fire Department gave a presentation using the hazard house to students and teachers at HO Smith and Library Street Schools. The Hazard House was acquired by the Hudson Fire Department through a grant. This house is used to educate students as well as adults about common hazards and unsafe conditions that might be found in the home and how to correct them.

On November 2, 3 and 4, members of the Hudson Fire Department and Nashua Fire Departments used the safety/smoke trailer to educate students and teachers of HO Smith and Library Street Schools. This trailer acquired by Nashua Fire Department through a federal grant is used

to provide realistic hands on approach to educating students of home fire hazards and unsafe conditions. Approximately 450 children and teachers went through the three rooms of the trailer, which include a kitchen, living room and bedroom. The students and some teachers even had the opportunity to practice escaping out of a bedroom by climbing out of an egress window and down a ladder to safety.

If your school would like to have either the Hazard House or the Safety trailer come and visit the school please contact Inspector Joseph Triolo of the Hudson Fire Department at 886-6021 or Inspector Richard Wood of the Nashua Fire Department at 594-3465.



# NH FOREST FIRE SERVICES

## *News & Notes*



**Remember . . . Safety First . . . On Every Incident . . . Every Time!**

## The Division of Forests and Lands Forest Protection Bureau

The 2005 fire season was about average for in-state fires, with 511 fires burning 172 acres as of this past fall. Our out-of-state program was very busy this past year with 64 firefighters being sent out-of-state to support both firefighting and hurricane-relief efforts. It was also a historic year for the Division in that we sent our first firefighting crew to Quebec as part of a Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact mobilization.

Please remember as we enter into the Spring fire season that you can check the daily fire danger rating anytime of day toll-free at the Division's Wildland Fire Information Line 1-866-NH-FIRES (1-866-643-4737) or by checking our website at [www.nhdf.org](http://www.nhdf.org).

The new administrative rules regarding the issuance and types of fire permits went into effect last fall. The Division will be offering several training courses regarding these changes at locations around the state for Wardens and Deputies. It is our hope these new rules will make the issuance of fire permits easier while still protecting the woodlands from fire.

With the arrival of the Spring wildland fire season, please remember to make safety your top priority. Every incident, no matter how small, has the potential to become a tragedy.

**Remember LCES: Lookouts, Communication, Escape Routes, Safety Zones.**

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## FROM THE ALS COORDINATOR 2007 PROTOCOLS & TRANSITION PROGRAMS

The 2007 protocol update is in process. A subcommittee has been formed and is meeting monthly to update and develop protocols. High on the agenda is the American Heart Association's new recommendations for cardiovascular care. As in the past, New Hampshire will be adhering to these guidelines. It is important for the EMS community to know that the Protocol Subcommittee is very interested in your thoughts and ideas pertaining to prehospital procedures and encourages your input. If you would like to submit your thoughts and ideas, email Vicki Blanchard, ALS Coordinator at [vblanchard@safety.state.nh.us](mailto:vblanchard@safety.state.nh.us).

Transition Programs are complete and as the refresher courses began you can expect to see these programs.

BASIC	INTERMEDIATE	PARAMEDIC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Aspirin Administration</li> <li>* Blood glucose monitoring</li> <li>* Application of ECG</li> <li>* Blind insertion airway devices (Combitube &amp; KING LT-D)</li> <li>* Mark one Kit</li> <li>* Cyanide/Arsenic Kit</li> <li>* Tracheotomy Maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Intermediate Pharmacology (formally known as the 'Meds. Module')</li> <li>* Intermediate Cardiology (formally known as "manual defib." Or "cardiac arrest management")</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Mark one Kit</li> <li>* Cyanide/Arsenic Kit</li> <li>* LMA</li> <li>* Cricothyrotomy (surgical and needle)</li> <li>* CPAP</li> <li>Immunizations</li> </ul>

For the many EMS providers who have been trained these skills under local option, the transition programs will truly be a refresher. For the providers who did not have the opportunity in the past for the training, you can look forward to these new skills being incorporated into your refresher.



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Subscriptions to the quarterly Newsletter are available to NH Firefighters and EMS Providers at no charge simply by completing the request below. If you already receive one, please do not fill out this request unless your information such as name, address, or fire department has changed.

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Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Fire Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Fire Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

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## The Fire and Emergency Medical Services News



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